

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, CANTERBURY & ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN, KENT

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
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Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton**

email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priests: **Fr Giovanni Prandini**

email: giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: **Miss Linda Scott** (based at St Thomas')

Parish Office open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): **Open Sundays from after 9.30 Mass until 12 noon**

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Chaplain: **Fr Mark Wharton** (markwharton@rcaos.org.uk)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: **Miss Lisa D'Agostini** (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Executive Principal: **Mr M Walters**; Academy Principal: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

2nd Col.: **Communications Sunday**

6.00pm (Vigil): CONFIRMATION MASS

Sunday 12th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter Jn 17: 11-19

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Adrian Amariei RIP

11.00am: Welfare of the Evans Family children and grandchildren

12.30pm: *Baptism of John Eguefo*

6.00pm: Sheila Bradley - RIP

Monday 13th May : Our Lady of Fatima Jn 16: 29-33

12 noon: Private Intentions

7.30pm: *Open Air Mass Planning Meeting in the Presbytery*

Tuesday 14th May: St Matthias, Apostle Jn 15: 9-17

12 noon: David Heap - RIP

Wednesday 15th May: St John Stone Jn 17: 11-19

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Christine Metcalfe - RIP

Tea and coffee in the hall after Mass

Thursday 16th May: St Simon Stock Jn 17: 20-26

7.30am: Thanksgiving

12 noon: Victoria O'Grady- RIP

Scripture group meeting in the upper room after Mass

Friday 17th May: Feria Jn 21: 15-19

12 noon: Russell Mark Thompson - RIP

Saturday 18th May: St John I Jn 21: 20-25

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Ann Strain - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Rhys and Jennifer Scott

Sunday 19th May: Pentecost Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

8.00am: Michael Reynolds - RIP

9.30am: Intentions of the Renn Family

11.00am: Polak, Howsam and Prior families intentions

Baptism of Ben Scott during Mass

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: **SVP**

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2024

For the formation of religious and seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 12th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter Jn 17: 11-19

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 19th May: Pentecost Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

10.00am: People of the Parish

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Jenni Aldridge, Josie Price, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Heather Dandison, Maria Krynicki, Richard Sexton, Frank Basquil, Judith Parsons, Therese Punnett, Andrew Burton, Pauline Ventress, Jean Crane, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha, William Humphries, Marjery Craig, Juliet Nakabugo, Marie David Ambroisine, Pauline Ryan, Tita Riley, Mary De Wolf, Brian Collins, Louis de Marigny

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Molly Kelly, William Edwards Jr, Nan Weber, William Quinn, Barbara Markham, Sancho Vibal, Eva Lee, Nicholas Murphy, Cecilia Adekunle, Deirdre Mills, Janet Rogers, Judith Ross, Lewis Rising, Heinz Vogel, Bill Parker, Sr John Baptist, Judith Roser, Mary Cawthorn, David Tully, Joe Gunn, John Keily, Mary Jeffries, Germaine Reid, Patricia Gibson, Vince Dalton, Sean Tanzey, Christine Metcalfe, Ken Clark, Fr David Standley, Keith Taylor, Francoise Heaton, Sheila Elliott, Ron Cameron and Mary Wright (Woodman)

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in May 2024:

Hubert Whyte, Mary Mariasy, Gabriel Mendes and Russell Thompson

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **11/12 May: World Communication Sunday.** This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the media office of the Bishops; Conference of England and Wales which seeks to promote the gospel and to develop the public profile of the Church and its teaching.
Next weekend: **18/19 May: SVP**

CONFIRMATION:

Please pray for all those confirmed at the 6pm Vigil Mass this weekend.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 1st June 2024** at 9.00 am in the Presbytery. Places are limited so call the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (from office, online or in the Narthex)

From Fr Giovanni...

May is the month of Mary. It is a long-standing tradition of the Church to encourage a specific devotion for each month of the year and May is the month dedicated to Mary. Our Lady has a special place in our Christian faith, she is a specific feature of Catholicism (and Orthodoxy) and her veneration has been regarded as a stumbling block in the ecumenical dialogue with Protestant and Reformed Christians. Protestant advisors at the Second Vatican Council warned the Council against including a chapter on Mary in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church; the Reformed Theologian Karl Barth referred to Mariology as a tumour that has to be excised. Let's see now why Mary is so important to us Catholics.

Mary is important because it shows we humans can cooperate with God in the work of salvation. No Mary, no Jesus. At the Annunciation Mary gave her, fully human, contribution to God's salvation. This contribution was necessary and required. Every time we do good and make an effort to build up the kingdom of God on earth, we are giving our contribution to God's work of salvation and redemption of all creation. Mary shows that such contribution of ours is not only possible, but it is also needed.

Mary mediates between God and us. We have only a mediator between us and God, and that is Jesus Christ his son. However, Jesus wanted to give us his mother as our mother so that she can pray and intercede for us. At the Wedding Feast of Cana asked Jesus to intervene to spare their hosts embarrassment. Jesus granted this request even if 'his hour [had] not yet come'.

Mary has arrived already where we hope to go. At the end of her earthly life, she was assumed body and soul into Heaven. This shows that our destiny is indeed to enter Heaven. She is the first, and so far, only human who has entered Heaven body and soul. Still, her Assumption validates our belief in the resurrection of the body and the life to come.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Solitude Group: The Solitude Group continues to meet on the third Saturday of the month in St Peter's Anglican Church; 10am to 12 noon. Next meeting is 18th May.

MUSIC CONCERT: Saturday 25th May - a concert of music and readings by the Credo Ensemble, telling of St Augustine of Canterbury's journey to evangelise the English, 'Non Angli, Sed Angeli' will be offered at 7:30pm, more details on the posters around the church, this is for the music fund.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a **First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day** at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Sat, 1st June 2024 from 11 am to 4:30 pm. All welcome. Pls call Millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for more info.

OPEN AIR MASS 30TH JUNE 2024 AT 10AM

On 30th June we will have an Open Air Mass in the grounds of St Anselm's School. This is a wonderful opportunity for the parish to all come together to celebrate Mass. There will be usual Saturday evening vigil Mass at 6pm on 29th June but NO masses will be celebrated in the Church on Sunday, The only Sunday Mass will be the one we celebrate together in the grounds of St Anselm's School. This all needs careful planning. If you can help in any way we are having a planning meeting on Monday 13th May at 7:30pm in the Presbytery.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage July 13th 2024 at St George's Cathedral If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, and **no later than May 31st 2024**, with the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at mfikent@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Maidstone St Francis.

PILGRAIM ACCOMMODATION : Franciscans first arrived on English soil on 10th September 1224 – this year marks the 800th anniversary of this moment. The UK Franciscan family are organising a pilgrimage from Dover to Canterbury to mark this event and are entitling it: **Casting the Net of Peter with the Card of St Francis 1224-2024.** The plan for 10 – 11th September is: they begin their pilgrimage with Eucharist on the beach in Dover. After breakfast they will set off for Canterbury, hoping to arrive late afternoon on Tuesday 10th September. They will use our Hall for their evening meal. Their request is for parishioners who would be willing to put pilgrims up in their homes overnight on Tuesday 10th September and maybe for 11th September. Please contact one of the priests or the parish Office if you can help.

New Opportunities Fair has been postponed to 26 May 2024 from 10h30 to 13h00. Come and meet the organisations supporting our community, if you would like to get involved, please contact socialstthomasrc@gmail.com

Plant and Cake Sale 19th May in the church hall donations of Plants, seeds and cakes welcome on the day please see poster for more details.

HCPT (GROUP 587) SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

25 May - 1st June 2024. £960 (accommodation only £645). For more information contact Annie Judge ([07866515797](tel:07866515797) / anniejudge@hotmail.com) or chat with Father Anthony. There are also leaflets in the Narthex.

On Tuesday 21st May, the Vigil of St Rita, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

AGENCY FOR EVANGELISATION & CATECHESIS - FORMATION FAYRE The call for Adult Formation was overwhelmingly present in the synod responses, across the world and in our archdiocese. On the 8th of June, the AEC will be hosting a Formation Fayre, featuring Archbishop John Wilson as the keynote speaker. Join us for an enriching day of faith development at the Formation Fayre 2024 on 8 June 2024 at Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral. With the theme "Made for More," our event promises dynamic breakout sessions, times of prayer, and opportunities for spiritual reflection. Don't miss this chance to deepen your understanding of Catholicism and emerge renewed and empowered. Register now at aec.rcaos.org.uk and be part of this transformative event.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY

Please see the poster in the Narthex for forthcoming events

HALL CHAIRS AND TABLES. Please could all those using the hall return the tables and chairs to their correctly stacked positions along the wall towards the back of the hall in as clean a condition as possible.

Pilates Classes: We have some spaces for both the Mat (Wed) and Chair (Tues) classes at 10h30 in our parish hall. Contact Jennifer at jcu.bintley@icloud.com